

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102918
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 /012 R

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APPROVED BY ARA/PAN - SMBELL
H- MR. CUTTER

-----061907Z 049594 / 55

R 052203Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR/PN

SUBJECT:HOUSE DEFEATS MEASURE OPPOSING PANAMA CANAL
NEGOTIATIONS

1. BY VOTE OF 220-182, HOUSE MAY 4 BLOCKED ATTEMPT TO
INHIBIT FURTHER CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA.
DURING FLOOR ACTION ON STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL,
REP. DORNAN (R-CALIF.) INTRODUCED AMENDMENT IDENTICAL TO
LAST YEAR'S SNYDER AMENDMENT PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS TO
NEGOTIATE "SURRENDER OR RELINQUISHMENT OF THE CANAL ZONE OR
THE PANAMA CANAL". REP. BUCHANAN (R-ALA.) THEN INTRODUCED
SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (ALSO IDENTICAL TO THAT PROPOSED LAST
YEAR) SUPPORTED BY DEPARTMENT STATING THAT NEW CANAL TREATY
"MUST PROTECT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN
THE CANAL ZONE AND IN THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, PROPERTY,
AND DEFENSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL". BUCHANAN SUBSTITUTE
WAS ADOPTED BY VOTE NOTED ABOVE.

2. VOTE REAFFIRMS THAT MAJORITY (IN THIS CASE 54.7) CAN
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BE ASSEMBLED IN HOUSE TO ENDORSE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS
LOOKING TOWARD MAJOR CHANGES IN TREATY ARRANGEMENTS GOVERN-
ING CANAL. RESULTS PARALLELED THOSE ON SNYDER AMENDMENT
IN 1976, WHEN KEY VOTE SUPPORTING TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WAS
197-157 (55.6 PRO-NEGOTIATIONS). HOUSE MEMBERS SUPPORTING
NEGOTIATIONS WERE ABLE TO MOBILIZE FORCES SMOOTHLY THIS

YEAR TO SECURE DEFEAT OF ANTI-TREATY INITIATIVE WITH ONLY
A FEW HOURS NOTICE. NEVERTHELESS, VOTE ALSO SHOWS TREATY
REVISION STILL HAS SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION, WHICH COULD
COMPLICATE SECURING APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT
TREATY. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOWER HOUSE, AMENDMENTS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2624326
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PFOR, PN
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